

Summer Reading Assignment 2022



Students will **select two texts to read** during the summer. **Students will select one novel** from the list of five fiction titles for 8th grade (below), and select **one article** from a list of five nonfiction titles (below.) Each grade level's list connects to the first literary theme studied in class.

After students read each text, they will **complete a corresponding assignment** that addresses the elements of fiction and nonfiction.

8th Grade Summer Reading List

● Fiction (Choose 1 title)

1. Big Mouth and Ugly Girl - by Joyce Carol Oats
2. The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis
3. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacquelyn Woodson
4. Heart of A Samurai by Margie Prius
5. Redwall by Brian Jacques

● Nonfiction (Choose 1 article)

1. "Why are We Obsessed with Superheroes?"
<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/why-are-we-obsessed-with-superheroes>
2. "The Scottsboro Boys"
<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-scottsboro-boys>
3. "The Distracted Teenage Brain"
<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-distracted-teenage-brain>
4. "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance"
<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/grit-the-power-of-passion-and-perseverance>
5. "Alexander Hamilton"
<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/alexander-hamilton>

Elements of Fiction Cheat Sheet

Elements of Plot:

- Exposition: The introduction of the story where we learn about characters, setting, and situation.
- Rising Action: The events that lead up to the climax (includes conflict)
- Conflict: The main problem of the novel.
- Climax: The point of most tension in the novel, a turning point
- Falling Action: Events that follow the climax and lead to the resolution.
- Resolution: How the story ends and the conflict is resolved.

Theme: The message the author is trying to teach the reader. (The life lesson)

Characterization: how the author creates a character using traits (personality) and motives (reasons for actions)

Setting: The time and place of a story's action

(flip over! ⇌)

Summer Reading Book Reports:

Fiction:

After reading a novel, complete one of the below projects that focus on Theme, Characterization, and Elements of Fictional Plot.

Choose 1 of the following:

1. Create an instagram account for the plot of your novel.

- a. Include six pictures, one for each of the following plot elements: exposition, rising action, conflict, climax, falling action, and resolution. Include at least a two sentence caption for each image that informs your reader (1.) what the picture is and (2.) how it ties in to the theme and characters of the story. There should also be at least one hashtag for each image. This can be submitted as a digital instagram account or drawn /copied images on paper.

2. Create a plot alphabet

- a. For each 26 letters in the alphabet, write a short phrase or sentence that touches on the plot elements, characterization, important scenes, and themes. The finished product should give a thorough overview of your novel.

3. Imagine that you are writing for a magazine and you have been asked to write a book review.

- a. Write the review (which is part summary and part recommendation) and include at least 5 details and 3 direct quotes. Explain the details and quotes and how they portray the plot, characters, and theme.

4. Create a plot map

- a. Look back closely at the places that were important in your book, and illustrate a map that shows where they all are in relation to one another. Then create a key in which you explain in at least one complete sentence why each place is so important to the story.

Nonfiction:

Complete the quiz and write assignments for the article on a separate piece of paper. Write out the entire multiple choice answer not the letter.